

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 NEA-10 ISO-00 EUR-25 AID-20 NIC-01 OMB-01

ACDA-19 SAJ-01 EB-11 TRSE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07

H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03

SS-20 USIA-15 NSA-02 DRC-01 NSCE-00 /191 W

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R 181715Z MAR 74

FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0317

INFO AMEMBASSY COLOMBO

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

USLO PEKING

USUN NEW YORK 1618

C O N F I D E N T I A L NEW DELHI 3693

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, VS, IN

SUBJECT: INDIAN POSITION ON PRG PARTICIPATION IN INTERNATIONAL MEETINGS

REF: NEW DELHI 3513 (NOTAL)

1. CONVERSATIONS WITH MEA JOINT SECRETARIES FOR UN AND EAST ASIAN AFFAIRS LAST WEEK AND TODAY MAKE IT EVIDENT THAT GOI ATTITUDE ON PRG PARTICIPATION IN INTERNATIONAL MEETINGS HAS SOFTENED. BOTH OFFICIALS TOLD POL COUNSELOR THAT GOI WOULD CONTINUE TO CONSIDER PRG PARTICIPATION ON CASE-BY-CASE BASIS BUT WITH BALANCE FAVORING PRG WHEN MEETINGS APPEARED PRIMARILY TECHNICAL AND OF SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC SIGNIFICANCE RATHER THAN POLITICAL. GOI DID NOT RECOGNIZE PRG AS A "GOVERNMENT" BUT DID ACCEPT THAT PRG HAD A SPECIAL STATUS IN VIETNAM WHICH JUSTIFIED ITS PARTICIPATION IN CERTAIN TYPES OF MEETINGS. INDIANS JUSTIFIED THEIR ROLE AT LAW OF WAR CONFERENCE IN GENEVA, FOR EXAMPLE, ON GROUNDS PRG DID HOLD GVN PRISONERS AND WAS PRACTICALLY

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CONCERNED WITH ISSUES TO BE DISCUSSED AT CONFERENCE. BOTH OFFICIALS

PROFESSED NOT TO HAVE HEARD OF ANY PLAN TO RAISE PRG PARTICIPATION AT ECAFE MEETING IN COLOMBO. THEY SAID GOI WOULD UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCES SUPPORT ANY RESOLUTION WHICH WAS AIMED AT DEPRIVING GVN OF ITS SEAT AT THIS OR ANY OTHER CONFERENCE, OR AT SUBSTITUTING PRG FOR GVN IN INTERNATIONAL FORUMS.

2. BOTH OFFICIALS ALSO MENTIONED--AS IF IN PASSING--NON - ALIGNED PRESSURE IN EXPLAINING LAW OF WAR CONFERENCE VOTE AND SAID THIS CONSIDERATION WOULD ALSO CONTINUE TO INFLUENCE THEIR VOTING.

3. POL COUNSELOR REVIEWED ARGUMENTS IN VARIOUS DEPARTMENT AND EMBASSY SAIGON MESSAGES WITH BOTH JOINT SECRETARIES BUT WITHOUT ANY NOTICEABLE IMPACT.

4. COMMENT: INDIAN POLICY ON THIS ISSUE IS CLEARLY "POLITICAL" AND JUSTIFICATION FOLLOWS THE CONCLUSION RATHER THAN LEADING TO IT. PARA 2 ABOVE CONTAINS REAL EXPLANATION RATHER THAN PARA 1. WE DO NOT KNOW AT THIS POINT WHETHER SOVIETS HAVE ALSO WEIGHED IN STRONGLY ON BEHALF OF THE PRG. ON BALANCE, WE SUSPECT THE MORE "RADICAL" NON-ALIGNED STATE POSITION AND THE FACT THAT THE NON-ALIGNED CONFERENCE LAST YEAR ACCEPTED THE PRG ARE PROBABLY THE MOST RELEVANT ELEMENTS BEHIND THE INDIAN DECISION.

5. THE AMBASSADOR IS CONSIDERING RAISING ISSUE WITH FOREIGN SECRETARY BUT, BEFORE DOING SO IN CONNECTION WITH ECAFE MEETING, WE WOULD APPRECIATE CLEAR INDICATION OF WHETHER AT THIS POINT WE EXPECT ISSUE TO ARISE. WE WOULD NOT WANT TO FIRE A SALVO AT A NONEXISTENT TARGET BUT RATHER WAIT FOR AN OCCASION WHEN WE CAN REALLY SEE THE "WHITES OF THEIR EYES".
MOYNIHAN

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